City taking part in worldwide TV event for peace

By PETER EICHSTAEDT
The New Mexican Staff

Santa Fe will be part of a worldwide television satellite hookup on Monday that will include major cities in the world and will urge world peace through communication.

The event will feature Indian dancers from San Juan Pueblo, the choir from St. Francis Cathedral and the metal sculpture of Santa Fe artist Tony Price.

The event will take place in the capitol rotunda and the public is invited to watch and participate, said organizers Dean Alatzas and Leslie Larsen. Television screens and monitors will be set up in the rotunda area to watch the two-hour program, most of which will originate in Montreal.

The event is called "Megavision" and is the brainchild of Soviet film producer Joseph Goldin. He is also founder of a group called "Citizen Diplomacy."

The event will use modern satellite technology to broadcast cultural events around the world.

Goldin said the core of the event will be a concert by the World Philharmonic Orchestra in Montreal.

Other cities participating in the event are San Francisco, San Diego, Washington, D.C., Geneva, Moscow, Paris and London, Larsen said.

Santa Fe will have a 10-minute segment after the orchestra concert, Larsen said, and that will be sometime between 7:45 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. Monday. People can watch the event live and on the monitors.

The Santa Fe portion is tricultural, Alatzas said. Price's work, which is made of discarded parts from the Los Alamos laboratories, represents the contribution of the Anglo culture. The choir is the religious contribution of the Hispanic culture and the Eagle Dance, which will be performed by the San Juan Pueblo dancers, is the American Indian contribution.

Peter Garcia, the head of the dancers, said he wants the dance to communicate the Indian respect for nature to the rest of the world.

Harold Littlebird, a poet from Santo Domingo Pueblo, will help narrate the show.

George Koumantarous, the creative director for the show, said the program shows that "the three cultures can listen to each other and give each other space to breathe."

People who have satellite dishes can tune into the event at their homes, Larsen said. The broadcast is from the satellite G Star 2 and is is on the KU band. The dish should be set to 16 degrees vertical, and at 12171 megahertz for the video and 6.2 and 6.8 megahertz for the audio. It should also be set at 105 degrees west.

Larsen said that the event would cost $40,000 if it had to be produced, but has been done virtually free through volunteers. She said that about $7,500 has been raised to cover expenses, but more is needed.

Leslie Tallant/The New Mexican

The St. Francis Cathedral Choir practices Sunday afternoon in the Capitol rotunda.